

GIFFT

BY KATHIE LEE GIFFORD

Chardonnay

MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

I first came to love Chardonnay many years ago when I fell in love with French Burgundy. I was born in France so I think it is in my blood! I loved it so much that when Frank and I welcomed a dog into our home, we named our little bichon frise Chardonnay, along with her partner, Chablis. Over the years, though, my love affair with Chardonnay (the wine, not the dog) waned. I felt that this classic varietal too often veered into the over-oaked and over-seasoned territory. I wanted a wine that I could drink on its own or set down on the table and enjoy WITH food, not compete AGAINST it. So, when I decided to partner with the Scheid family, our goal was to craft a wine with poise, and one that allowed the true varietal character of the Chardonnay grape to shine.

Kathie Lee Gifford

VINEYARD

GIFFT Chardonnay hails from the Scheid family's estate vineyards in Monterey County. With evening coastal fog that often lingers until mid-morning the following day, the cool climate of the Monterey growing region makes it a little slice of Chardonnay heaven. The winds that sweep through the vineyards each day accentuate this natural cooling effect, allowing extra "hang time," which leads to more intense flavor development and enhanced richness of fruit.

WINEMAKING

The grapes are picked in the cool, early morning hours, then brought to the winery where they are gently whole-cluster pressed, chilled, and racked clean to a refrigerated stainless steel tank. The juice is slowly fermented at a cool temperature to accentuate the aromatic fruit components. Half of the blend is aged in stainless steel to retain bright fruit flavors, lively aromatics and crisp acidity. The other half is aged on 100% French oak for rich texture, complexity and just a hint of buttery, vanilla creaminess.

TASTING NOTES

GIFFT Chardonnay exhibits richness, depth and complexity, balanced by lively acidity and an essential freshness. Featuring the gorgeous tropical fruit flavors that are the hallmark of Monterey Chardonnays, GIFFT Chardonnay strikes the ideal balance between rich and refreshing, and pairs well with roasted pork, sautéed snapper or cream-based seafood dishes.



FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, LAUGHTER...IT'S A GIFFT!



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